(d) The entire production of Iron ore from each mines has been despatched for export.

**Gauge Conversion**

2944. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Yelahanka and Bangarpet narrow gauge line into meter gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gauge Conversion of Yellahanka-Chickballapur has already been completed. Work on Bangarpet-Kolar has been taken up and is likely to be completed in this financial year. Kolar-Chickballapur will be taken up in the coming years.

**Local Call Facility**

2945. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to provide facility of local calls to all the cities/towns included in the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Local call means a call from a subscriber's line to another subscriber line on any exchange within the same exchange system (local area). Telephone exchanges in various cities/towns of National Capital Retion have separate local areas of their own. As such local call facility to all cities/towns in National Capital Region is not admissible.

**Introduction of Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput**

2946. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput via Rayagada after commissioning of the Koraput-Rayagada new B.G. rail link;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of said train;

(c) the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). An Express train connection between Bhubaneswar and Koraput via Rayagada will be provided on availability of clearance for passenger train running on the Koraput-Rayagada line.

There has been delay in receipt of Commissioner of Railway Satety's sanction on account of certain technical constraints in the tunnels in the newly constructed section.

*[Translation]*

**Termination of Trains Running on Narrow Gauge line**

2947. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to terminate the trains running between Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert Gwalior-Sheopur narrow gauge line;

(d) whether this work is likely to be undertaken in the budget of 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. Due to constraint of resources.

(f) Does not arise.

**Backlog of Employment in the Country**

2948. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of unemployment in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievement made to generate jobs for the unemployed person during the current Plan period;

(c) whether a new strategy has been adopted by the Government to create additional employment in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Seventh Plan was of the order of 17.0 million.